

courage, humanitarian dedication, and good works.

IN HONOR OF FATHER JOSEPH A.
ROMANSKY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Father Joseph A. Romansky who is celebrating his 25th anniversary as a priest of the Cleveland Catholic Diocese. Father Romansky is a native of the Cleveland area. His first of many admirable assignments was at St. Catherine's Parish on East 93rd Street. Following his dedicated service to St. Catherine's, Father Romansky worked at the diocesan offices in downtown Cleveland while also assisting at St. Francis in the East 71st Street and Superior area. From there, Father Romansky became pastor of Holy Family Catholic Church on East 131st Street, and later he was chaplain at the Light of Hearts Villa. Father Romansky has spent the last several years spreading hope and peace as chaplain at St. Augustine Manor.

Over the course of the last 25 years, Father Romansky has fully devoted his life to serving his parish and the people of Cleveland. More importantly, he is committed to the well-being and happiness of all people regardless of race, creed, gender, or class. Father Romansky is a kind and generous man who makes all those he comes in contact with feel special and loved.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of the House of Representatives to recognize the achievements of Father Joseph A. Romansky as he celebrates his 25 years of service to the Cleveland Catholic Diocese. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his charity and dedication to his faith, his parish, and the entire city of Cleveland.

TRIBUTE TO GIRL SCOUT GOLD
AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. THOMAS W. EWING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2000

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to salute Laura David, Erin Wiggins, Jennifer Iversen, Christina Barnes, and Merideth Holmes. They are outstanding young women who were honored with the Girl Scout Gold Award by Green Meadows Council in Urbana, Illinois. Laura, Erin, Jennifer, Christina, and Merideth were honored on May 8, 2000 for earning the highest achievement that a young woman aged 14-17 or in grades 9-12 can earn in Girl Scouting. The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments and has five requirements, each of which helps girls develop skills in the areas of leadership, career exploration, self-discovery, and service. The fifth requirement is a Gold Award Project that requires a minimum of 50 hours of participation.

Girl Scouts of the U. S. A., an organization serving over 2.5 million girls, has awarded more than 20,000 Girl Scout Awards to Senior

Girl Scouts since the inception of the program in 1980. To receive this award, a Girl Scout must earn four interest project patches, the Career Exploration Pin, the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, and the Senior Girl Scout Challenge, and also design and carry out a Girl Scout Award project. A plan for fulfilling these requirements is created by the Senior Girl Scout and is carried out through close cooperation between the girl, her troop leader, and an adult Girl Scout volunteer mentor.

Laura and Erin's Gold Award project was "Communities Helping Communities." They are members of Girl Scout Troop 299 in Champaign, Illinois. The idea for their project came when they participated in a school sponsored city clean-up project. They recognized the need to help elderly neighbors with yard work and beautification of their property. Together they organized and coordinated volunteer workers, obtained donations of plant materials and supplies and provided gardening services for eight elderly families and three churches. Upon completing this project, they evaluated the results. Laura felt that one of the benefits of this project was the families were able to provide input into the selection of flowers and how their flowerbeds were designed. Erin said she gained self-satisfaction from providing such a tangible improvement to homes. Benefits of the project were the experience of intergenerational and multi-racial neighbors working together.

Jennifer Iversen's Gold Award project involved obtaining computers for the residents of Manor Care Health Services. She is also a member of Girl Scout Troop 299 in Champaign, Illinois. Jennifer and a friend taught residents basic computer skills and how to access the Internet. These new skills provided residents the ability to use e-mail to correspond with family friends. Jennifer applied for and received a grant for continuation of this project next year with volunteer assistance from the social advocacy class at University Laboratory High School.

Christina Barnes's Gold Award project titled "Assistant Softball Coach" provided her the opportunity to share her talents and love of softball with young women aged 13-15. Christina is a member of Girl Scout Troop 400 in Philo, Illinois. She coached and taught this group fast pitch softball skills through the Park District. Her project also included developing a Fist Aid kit for the team and emphasizing nutrition in her instruction.

Merideth Holmes is an Independent Girl Scout from Monticello, Illinois, and her project, "Christian Cuddliness" involved working with members of a Junior Girl Scout troop to make teddy bears for children admitted to the emergency room go Ganta Memorial Hospital in Ganta, Liberia. Merideth enjoyed involving the Junior Girl Scouts in her project and being able to make an emergency room more comforting and less threatening for children.

I believe that Laura David, Erin Wiggins, Jennifer Iversen, Christina Barnes, and Merideth Holmes should receive public recognition for their significant service to their communities and country.

HONORING THE 300TH ANNIVERSARIES OF ST. DAVID'S CHURCH AND ST. PETER'S CHURCH IN THE GREAT VALLEY

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2000

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the parishioners of St. David's Church, Wayne and St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley, near Paoli, Pennsylvania for celebrating their 300th anniversaries. This historic milestone was reached on September 2, 2000.

It is often said of Pennsylvania that "America starts here." This is particularly true for the greater Philadelphia region, where so many of our Founders came together to deliberate, where the Declaration of Independence was signed, and in whose fields and valleys so many cruel and bitter battles were fought during our Revolution. During this time of remembrance it is fitting to recall the people who settled Chester County, lived in its towns, educated its young, built its businesses, reached out to its needy, fought its wars and ultimately returned to its soil. A prominent role in the development of Chester County was played by St. David's Church in Wayne and St. Peter's Church in the Valley.

As we reflect 300 years later on this rich history, it is my honor and privilege to congratulate the two current rectors, The Rev. John G. Tampa of St. Peter's and The Rev. W. Frank Allen of St. David's, who have the honor to serve their parishioners during this momentous time of celebration. Continuing a walk in faith begun over three centuries ago, they provide the leadership and vision that have made St. David's Church and St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley a cornerstone of spiritual leadership as well as a source of inspirational outreach and service. These churches remain to this day vibrant members of their community providing food, education, health care, shelter, training and countless other services to people in need.

The two parishes were established in 1700 as missions of the historic Christ Church, Philadelphia, serving what was then the frontier regions of Chester County, Pennsylvania. Christ Church is familiar to students of our history, for it was the site where our Founders met to discuss and later to proclaim our country and its unique form of government.

From the moment of their founding, St. David's Church and St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley have played a prominent role in the history of Pennsylvania, and indeed of the nation. The first services were held in small log cabins, were tended by a circuit-riding clergyman and drew only a handful of Welsh pioneers. Today, the combined congregations of St. Peter's and St. David's exceed 3,000 parishioners, and they continue to grow.

It is interesting to note that it was from St. David's Church that General Anthony Wayne, whom some regard as the real founder of the American Army, went off to fight with General Washington. It was to St. David's Church that his body was returned years later. Not surprisingly, St. David's and its graveyard have been designated as National Historic Landmarks.

St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley, another National Historic Landmark, served as a